

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2807

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2011

SCHEMES UNDER FOREST CONSERVATION ACT

Tomar Shri Narendra Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes under consideration of the Government pertaining to the various States including Madhya Pradesh under the Forest Conservation Act;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for their immediate clearance; and

(c) the details of the work accomplished by the Government so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Presently, 327 proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are under consideration of the Central Government. State/Union Territory-wise details of the same is annexed.

(b) & (c) To facilitate early decision on the proposals, the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003, has delegated the powers to its regional offices located at Shillong, Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Lucknow, Chandigarh and Bangalore to scrutinize and accord approvals to all proposals involving forest land up to 5 hectares, except for regularization of encroachments and mining. The diversion proposals involving forest areas above 5 ha. and up to 40 ha. are examined by State Advisory Groups (SAG) constituted at the State level. The proposals seeking diversion of forest land more than 40 hectare in each case are thus only examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted at the Central Government level in the Ministry.

To boost the development of rural and tribal areas, general approval has been accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of forest land for public utility development projects of area involving less than one hectare in each case, to be executed by Government Departments, namely, Schools, Dispensary/hospital, Electric and telecommunication lines, Drinking water, Water/rainwater harvesting structures, Minor irrigation canal, Non-conventional sources of energy, Skill up-gradation/vocational training centre, Power sub-stations, Communication posts and Police establishments like police stations/outposts/border outposts/watch towers, in sensitive areas.

As a special measures to boost development of basic infrastructure in 95 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected and Integrated Action Plan districts in nine States of the Country, the general approval for diversion of the forest land for the said public utility development projects has been further relaxed upto 2 hectares in each case, for a period of five years i.e. till 31.12.2015.

The Central Government is also taking all possible measures, such as timely convening of the meetings of the Forest Advisory Committee & the State Advisory Groups and periodic monitoring and review of the pending proposals, to ensure early decision on the proposals seeking its prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.